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GOOD
HAS A NEW CHAMPION
EVIL
HAS A NEW HERO
THE SAME MAN

SUPER HEROES FROM THE MIND OF

ALIVE BARKER SAINT SINNER



DIRECT EDITION
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Recommended Listening: Ministry - N.W.O. From the Album - KEENAN ☐



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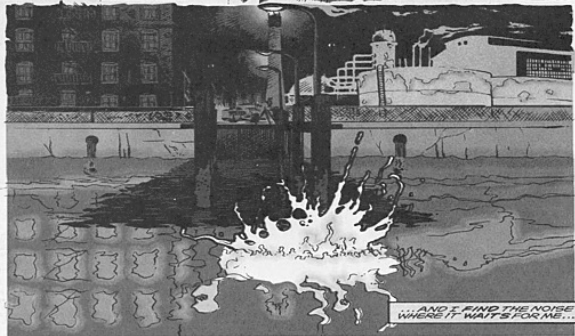
SO, I RUN LIKE HELL
AND FROM HELL...



...TO THE VERY END
OF THE WORLD...



...AS FAST AND AS
FAR AS I CAN...



...AND I FIND THE NOISE
WHERE IT WAITS FOR ME...

...BEFORE HELL'S VERY GATE!

MY NAME IS PHILIP FETTER
AND I AM DYING.

Save yourself, boy.
Live and serve
me. I will make of
you a god!

JUST LAST WEEK, NOISE
WAS MY FRIEND AND ALL
SOUNDS WERE BEAUTIFUL.

You dare defy me? I'll
burn you. Hehehe... Rrrrr!
Your mind!

JUST LAST WEEK
I WAS SIXTEEN
YEARS OLD.

Just give it up... give gently
to oblivion. I will drink
your resignation and grow
strong.

WORLD WITHOUT END

a tale of the BARKERVERSE

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ON THE RIGHT,
HAND PATH...

PROBABLY
RATS. WE--

W--WHAT?!

HEY, THE
TORCHES ARE
GOING --!

WOOFSSS

mmugh!

LIGHT UP
THERE, MUST BE
THE MANHOLE!

WAIT A
MINUTE--
DID YOU HEAR
SOMETHING?

GREG!

GREG? DID
YOU...
WHERE ARE...?

CHUNK!

GOTTA
GET OUT!
GOTTA--

GREG?
QUIT FOOLING
AROUND!

MAN,
LET
GO...

Aiiiiieee

THAT'S HOW IT STARTED...
JUST A WEEK AGO...

...I WAS SIXTEEN...

I WASN'T EVEN SURE IT
HAPPENED. WHAT HAPPENED.

WHATEVER HAPPENED IT
WASN'T MY IDEA. THE
NOISE HAD INSISTED.

...AND I MIGHT'VE
KILLED MY FRIENDS
FOR A JACKET.

Good boy

Nice
Boy...

THEN THE NOISE
WENT AWAY...

...AND I WENT HOME
I CONVINCED MYSELF
IT HAD ALL BEEN A
DREAM OR SOME KIND
OF A JOKE.

IT DIDN'T HAPPEN.
IT DIDN'T HAPPEN.
GREG AND DANNY
WILL CALL TONIGHT.

BUT THEY DIDN'T CALL,
AND THE NOISE CAME
BACK AND IT HAD
OTHER IDEAS.

PRETTY NEW OR HAD ONE, DID YOU, BOY?
WE SHOULD HAVE ONE OF
THOSE.

IT WAS LOUD. IT TOOK
UP ALL THE ROOM
IN MY HEAD.

I BECAME
AN OBSERVER IN
MY OWN BODY.
A WITNESS TO
THE HORROR.

THERE WERE ONLY
SIX OTHER WITNESSES
AT THE GAME THAT
NIGHT.

SWEET... S-W-E-E-T... LET'S
HAVE ANOTHER!

THEY SAY BLOOD IS
THICKER THAN WATER...

HONEY,
ARE YOU
OKAY?

Bathe in their
blood, Phillip...
Drown in it...

GODS KILL THEIR PARENTS! THEIR
DEATHS WILL MAKE YOU a god!

MOM?

THE NOISE KNEW MY WEAKNESS,
AND BURROWED INTO THE SICK, SOFT
BITS AT THE BOTTOM OF MY SOUL.

BUT JUST THIS ONCE... FROM
SOMEWHERE INSIDE ME... I
FOUND THE STRENGTH TO
DEFY THE NOISE.

AND I DROPPED
THE KNIFE.

AND I RAN.

I RAN TO THE END
OF THE WORLD AND
JUMPED OFF.

A LUNGFUL OF WATER
WOULD END WHAT BEGAN
IN BLOOD.



BUT IT ISN'T
THE END...



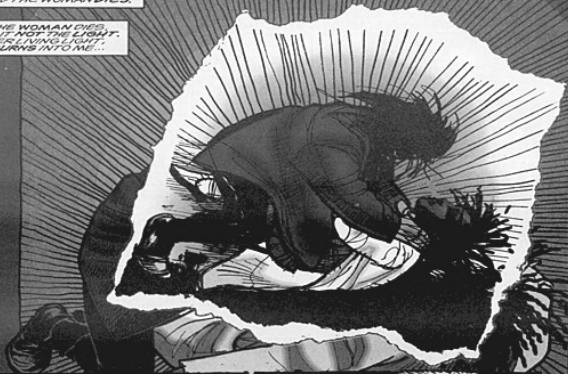
KILL THE
HARLOT!



...AT LEAST
NOT FOR ME.

THE NOISE COMMANDS,
AND THE WOMAN DIES.

THE WOMAN DIES,
BUT NOT THE LIGHT.
HER LIVING LIGHT,
BURNS INTO ME...



...SHE SURGES THROUGH ME, WELDING HERSELF
TO MY WOUNDED SOUL.



WE ARE THREE
NOW... THE NOISE,
THE LIGHT, AND
PHILIP FETTER.

AND I KNOW THE
WOMAN AS MORE
THAN HUMAN.

THE SHE-LIGHT IS
A SHIELD THAT KEEPS
ME FROM THE NOISE.



AND, WHERE THE NOISE HAD
BEEN, THERE IS ONLY PAIN AND
THE BURE KNOWLEDGE OF
MY GUILT.

THIS PAIN IS A JOY TO ME. IT IS PHILIP FETTER'S PAIN. I DIVE INTO IT, PULL IT AROUND ME.

THE TWO ENTITIES WAGE WAR AND I, WRAPPED IN PAIN, Huddle IN THE "NO-MAN'S LAND" BETWEEN THEM.

LEAVE, ANGEL! THE BOY IS MINE! THERE'S NO ROOM IN THIS SOUL FOR THE THREE OF US!

You're wrong, demon! You crowd the boy out. I make space so he may live between us.

It is you who are mine now, demon.

HELP ME MY BROTHERS!
SOULSMITH! CLOCKSMITH!
BLADESMITH!

BUT THE WAR ESCALATES.

WE'RE HERE,
BROTHER
RINESMITH!
SOULSMITH
COMES!

AND CLOCKSMITH,
RIGHT ON TIME!

BLADESMITH
SWEARS, HE'LL
SLICE YOU OUT
OF THIS FLESH!

I AM GRABBED
BY THE DEMON'S
BROTHERS AND
SNATCHED
FROM THE END
OF THE WORLD...

...AND TAKEN TO A WORLD
WITHOUT END...

...THE AMEN!

You will not
escape me,
Runesmith!
I have hunted you
through all times and
spaces from the moment
the Unity was split!

NOW I PRAY
FOR ENDINGS!

MY PRAYERS ARE
NOT ANSWERED.

ETERNITIES
HAVE PASSED
IN THE MOMENT
SINCE I FELL HERE.
A FITTING
PENALTY FOR
THE CRIME OF
KILLING
AN ANGEL.

HE'S GOT TO BE
IN HERE
SOMEWHERE!

Your mistake
was taking
the boy; his flesh is
the cradle in which
our metal is mixed.

FRESH ROSES AND DIES, ANGEL!
AND THE BOY IS NINE YEARS
NEARER TO DEATH. IN L.A.M. I WILL
BE FREE!

IT'S LONG PAST
TIME OUR BROTHER
WAS FREE!

I CAN'T CUT
HIM FREE WITHOUT
SHREDDING
HIS MIND!

Don't fight,
Sinner.
Accept the pain.
Stand between
the two of us.

"STAND BETWEEN." EASIER
SAID THAN DONE, BUT I HAVE
TIME TO PRACTICE.

I AM A BOY NO LONGER.
THE ANGEL AND THE DEMON
WAR IN THE MAN. TEAR
AT MY SOUL.

THEN, FINALLY... IN THIS ENDLESS WORLD...
A MOMENT OF RESPIRE... A BEGINNING...

THROW HIM IN
THE CAVITY!

LET HIM ROT FOR
THREE SCORE OF
HIS YEARS!

WHEN HIS MIND IS GONE WELL
ROUT THE ANGEL AND CUT
OUR BROTHER FREE.

THE RUNESMITH'S BROTHERS ABANDON ME
TO THAT STILL SPACE BETWEEN THE WARDING
SPIRITS. IN THIS SPACE, IN MY MIND, I FIND
THE BOY THAT WAS.

IS YOUR FUTURE SAINT,
AND IT IS PAIN AND ME
PAIN. BETTER TO CEASE
THE FIGHT. SLIDE QUIETLY
TOWARD OBIVION.

MY BROTHER SMITHS TOKE
THE FORGE FIRE AND CHIPPED
THEIR BLADES. THEY WILL FREE
ME FROM THE PRISON OF YOUR
EYES. DIE SOFTLY SAINT. SPARE
YOURSELF PAIN!

The Runesmith lies.
Ginner. He feeds on
Festigation. Your
death will free him
you must live.

LIVE WITH
YOU IN
THIS PLACE?

I CHOSE TO DIE.
ANGEL. YOU DID NOT
ACCEPT A CHOICE.
THE SMITHS HOLD
MY BODY CAPTIVE...
THE TWO OF YOU
TEAR AT MY MIND.
I AM A PRISONER!

There are many possible futures.
Choose your own.

BUT THIS SPACE EXISTS ONLY IN
THE CRACK BETWEEN THE HALVES
OF THE ONCE-BOY'S MIND.
I LEAVE THE BOY...

FOR THE MAN I HAVE BECOME
I LOOK OUTWARD FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN NINE YEARS.

HERE IN THIS HOLE, I AM BOUND BY
WRITHING WAVES, RE... LIVING CREATURES,
SIL-LIKE AND ANIMAL, BUT ROOTED LIKE
PLANTS TO THE CELL'S
FLESHY WALL.

I AM A
PRISONER!

SO ARE
WE ALL!

WITH ME ARE OTHERS...
PRISONERS, TOO.
UNLIKE ANY BEINGS
I HAVE SEEN
BEFORE.

THE HUMAN
FINALLY SPEAKS!
CAN YOU CONTROL
YOUR POWERS,
HUMAN?

I HAVE NO
POWER... JUST
TWO WARRING
ENTITIES
INSIDE ME.

KNOW ME AS
MISH-MASH.

THEY ARE NOT
IN YOU. THEY
ARE OF YOU.

USE THEM
AND HELP
US FREE
OURSELVES.

I'VE BEEN PATCHING
MYSELF WITH DEATH. THEY
KNOW DEATH IS TOO RARE
TO KEEP BODY AND
SOUL TOGETHER. THE SMITHS
KNOW. PERHAPS YOU COULD
SPARE A SMALL PIECE
OF YOURSELF?

I... I DON'T.

THERE.

I NEED
BEAUTY TO
FILL THE HOLES
IN ME.
MMMMMMM...

LIFE GROWS FROM
DEATH... A TALENT TO
RIVAL THIS DIMENSION-
TRIPPING POWER OF
MY KIND.

THIS ISN'T LIFE AND
I ONLY BRING DEATH.
AND ANYWAY WHO
ARE YOU?

YOUR POWER
MAY PROVE IF YOU
DIRECT IT. TRY FREE
YOURSELF.

IN MOST TIMES I WILL HAVE
BEEN CALLED *KAATO* TO *CAITO*.
NOW AND HERE, I'M JUST
ONE OF THE *DIE-BEINGERS*.
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT COUNTS.
DO SOMETHING, OR WE'LL
DIE DOWN HERE.

FREE
YOURSELF
BE AN
EFFECT.

EEEEE



SHINY!
ME WAA!
SHINY!

NO HE GOES
THAT'S THE WAY
I'VE SEEN IT.

LEAVE
THE BULL BABY.
CANTO, HELL
SLOW US.

WE MUST LEAVE
THE WAY YOU CAME,
HUMAN! WE ARE BANISHED
FROM OUR OWN WORLDS.
THEIR GATES DO NOT
OPEN TO US.

SOMEHOW, I DO KNOW.
I SEARCH MY MIND
FOR A GATE...

Between
us,
Stanner, Walk
between us.

HERE YOU JACKET.
YOU TAKE.

THE JACKET.
HOW IT ALL
BEGAN. YES.

YOU MUST CRACK TIME
AND SPACE FOR US!
WE NEED TO MOVE
BETWEEN THEM.

I... DON'T
KNOW.
HOW?

THE SPACE BETWEEN
US IS NOW.
SAY IT NOW.
WILL YOU
CR. SHEET?

EVEN AS I SAY IT, I
KNOW IT ISN'T TRUE.

...AND FIND ONE.
ALL IS NOISE
AND LIGHT!

SO WHERE
ARE WE?

RED STARS, THE COLOR OF
BLOOD AND PAIN, GLEAM HOT
BEYOND THE ROTTING WALLS OF
MEAT. I HAVE USED THE FORCE
OF THE CAGE RINGS... TO
CRACK A DOOR INTO THE AMEN.

THE AMEN...
THE PLACE WHERE
ALL PRAYERS COME
TO AN END, AND
NONE ARE
ANSWERED.

WE MOVE THROUGH THE SMITHS' REALM, THESE CREATURES AND I. THE HELL-BREATH OF DEMONS RAISING THE HAIR ON THE BACKS OF OUR NECKS.

SUFFERING'S GOOD FOR THE SOUL!

HURRY, HUMAN! THEY COME!

WHAT ARE THEY AND WHERE AM I LEADING THEM?

AND, I AM LEADING. THAT'S CLEAR TO ME NOW.

THAT WAY, WE'RE NEAR THE PLACE I FIRST ENTERED THE AMEN!

WHO ARE THESE CREATURES, MY COMPANIONS AND COMRADES?

I NEED GOOD, RAW LIFE AGAIN AND THE SMELL OF FRESH AIR!

BULL WAN' GO HOME! BULL BABY WAN' GO!

NOW, THEY SAY YOU CAN'T GO BACK.

THIS IS AFTER-HEAT HERE... A TASTE OF SOME-WORLD LEAKED THROUGH AT THIS SPOT.

IT HAS YOUR SMELL, HUMAN! IT'S STILL QUITE WARM!

... I'VE BEEN THROUGH HERE BEFORE.

BUT, I WILL GO BACK. JUST NEED TO REMEMBER!

ONCE AGAIN, I REACH... BLINDLY GROPPING TOWARD THE GATE. THIS TIME IT'S EASY...

I... KNOW THIS PLACE!



Think of
Earth
now, Sinner...
think of home...



...think of home... where
the pain started... where
the death began!

I HEAR
THE TASTE OF
SWEET!



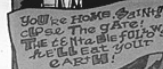
Close it, or
die!

You're home, Saint!
Close the gate!
The terrible folk who
will eat your
earrings!

No, Saint!
Noooooo!

Aghhhhh!

NO!



think you own me,
Saint? Think
a gain...

I've killed
again.



THE CREATURE
WAS
UNPREDICTABLE.
PERHAPS IT'S
BETTER.

FOR US, NOT
FOR HIM, BUT
BETTER
FOR US.

BACK ON EARTH...

...OR FORWARD,
PERHAPS...

...FOR TIME IN THE AMEN
DOES NOT COINCIDE
WITH THAT OF ANY
OTHER DIMENSION...

I TOLD YA, DIDN'T
IT? I TOLD YA SHE'D
BE THERE!

YEAH,
POPE. YA DID.
GUESS WE OWE
YA A BOTTLE A
ROT-GUT.

I SAW IT!
SHE PULLED HIM
OUT O' TH' RIVER AN'
HE KILT HER FOR IT.
YOUNG KID!
PURDY BOY...

...LOOKED LIKE ONE
O' THEM ROCK
SINGERS. HE'S
THE ONE DID IT!

LOOK AT
THIS, DUFFY.
I NEVER SEEN
NO THIN'
LIKE IT...

ME NEITHER--
-AND I WAS
SCHOOLED BY
JESUITS.
WEIRD, HUH?

THAT'S HIM! THAT GUY
ON THE NECKLACE!
HE'S THE ONE DID IT!

THE... S-S-S-S-S
SINNER!

NO TIME HAS
PASSED AT
ALL HERE!

I'VE LIVED
A LIFETIME
OF PAIN...

...LOST NINE
YEARS OF MY
YOUTH...

...AND COME BACK TO
WHERE I STARTED!

DON'T
MOVE,
BUDDY...

I THINK YOU
JUST MIGHT BE
THE GUY I'M
LOOKING FOR!

GIMME!

Aghhh-
mieee!

GIMME
DAT!

NO-- IT'S
NOT BULL
BABY YOU
WANT.

IF YOU
SEEK THE
MAN WHO
KILLED AN
ANGEL...

YOU MUST
BE LOOKING
FOR ME.

SHINY!

ACT 1

THERE'S NO PLACE
LIKE HOME!

IN A LONG-LOST LABORATORY
BENEATH THE ABANDONED
HOLLYWOOD CINEMA ON
HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD...

...THREE YOUTHS--ALTERED
BY FORCES THEY HAVE YET
TO UNDERSTAND...

...TO BATTLE WITH A
SOLDIER FROM ANOTHER
SOLAR SYSTEM--

--IN A WAR THAT COULD
CHANGE THE VERY FACE
OF OUR EARTH FOREVER!

HYPERKIND

HYPERKIND
CREATED BY
OLIVE BARKER

I THINK WE'VE
EVENED THE
ODDS...

THREE
AGAINST
THERMAK!

THINK
AGAIN,
YOUNG
FOOLS...

THE SOUL OF THE HERO
ESCHBACHER FLEES
HIS DYING BODY, TAKING
REFUGE WITHIN THE
ALIEN TECHNOLOGY WHICH
ONCE TRANSFORMED HIM...

I DID IT!
I BRIDGED
THE GAP--I'VE
BECOME A
GHOST
IN THE
MACHINE!

IF I'VE
GOT TO DIE,
AT LEAST
I'LL DO IT
MY WAY!

BUT ESCHBACHER IS
ABOUT TO DISCOVER
THAT THE QUAO TECH-
NOLOGY IN WHICH
HE SEeks REFUGE--

--IS ALREADY INHABITED
BY A SPIRIT OF ITS OWN--
THE MILD-SOUL THAT
CALLS ITSELF PAXIS!

WE ARE PAXIS... WE ARE PEACE...

FRED BURKE
STORY
PARIS CULLINS
PENCILS
BOB PETROCCA
INKER
STEVE DUTRO
LETTERER
TOM SMITH
COLORIST

FOR DECADES ESCHBACHER
ADVANCED THESE ALIEN
MACHINES, NEVER ABLE TO
FULLY FATHOM THEIR DEPTHS.

NOW THAT HE IS
INSIDE, ALL THAT
HAS CHANGED.

BUT EVEN AS ESCHBACHER INVADES
THIS STRANGE TERRITORY, ITS RULER,
THE MELT-SOUL THAT IS PRAXIS, IS
MEETING AND ENCOMPASSING
FOUR NEW SOULS...

...FOUR L.A. TEENAGERS WHO
HAVE TAKEN ON THE POWERS...
AND PERHAPS THE RESPONSIBILITIES...
OF AXIS WARRIORS.

"I'M HERE...
I'VE THIN'
UNDER-
STAND!"

FIRST THE SOUL OF THE GREAT
MACHINE PROBS THE PSYCHE
OF LISA MOFFITT... HEARING
IN HER OWN VOICE WHAT
BROUGHT THE ARMORED
GIRL TO TAKE UP THE ANKH-
KEY OF FUNCTION...

"MOM AND
DAD-- THEY GIVE
ME SO MUCH... MY
CAR... MY HORSE
GOTHIC... ALL THE
CLOTHES I COULD
EVER WANT..."

"BUT DO
THEY LOVE ME?
DO THEY
KNOW ME?"

"KENNY!
FOR A WHILE,
THERE I
REALLY THOUGHT
HE UNDER-
STOOD..."

"...UNTIL HE
SHOWED ME
WHAT HE REALLY
WANTED!
DYAN!"

"BUT I
TRUSTED THAT
OLD MAN ESCHBACHER...
AND NOW I'M
FIGHTING FOR
MY LIFE!"

"HOW
COULD
I HAVE
TRUSTED
HIM...?"

Eschbacher. You are here.
Join Us—as is your right.
Take your place within Paxis.

MY
PLACE?
IN YOURS? IT
WILL NOT
HAPPEN!

I WILL
NEVER BE
A CELL IN THE
PAXIS BODY, A
COB IN
THE QMO
MACHINE!

FIND
YOURSELF
ANOTHER
YES-MAN!

"ANOTHER YES-MAN?" THINKS PAXUS,
TURNING WITHIN TO THE NEXT NEW-
COMER. "PERHAPS THIS ONE..."
KENNY ZAMBETTI..."

"LISA'S
PARENTS...
NOW
THEY'RE A
SUCCESS..."

"I FAILED,
AGAIN. THAT'S IT—
I'M NOT GOING BACK.
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE JUST
ISN'T MY SPEED."

"...MUST
MAKE THEM
JACK TO
SEE HER
WITH ME."

"I DIDN'T
MEAN TO HURT
LISA—REALLY,
I DIDN'T..."

"...DYAN
JUST SEEMED
MORE MY
EQUAL. YOU
KNOW?"

"BUT NOW
GEORGE THINKS
I'M A JERK...
AND HE'S
PROBABLY
RIGHT."

"WHY
CAN'T I DO
ANYTHING
RIGHT?"

"CAN IT BE... THE KEY OF
LOGIC HAS TO COMMAND?"
QUESTED PAXUS, GROWING
WEAK AS IT TRIES TO
ASSIMILATE THE DEEP
UNCERTAINTIES IN THESE
YOUTH.

DO YOU
HEAR ME I'M
ESCHBACHER!
AND DON'T YOU
FORGET IT!

Prideful human—you
dare to bring your selfish
ego into Our Domain?

There is no place
for your singularity
here. All is Paxis...

...All is Peace. Peace
in The Joining.
Peace in The Oneness.

"AND YET THERE IS LITTLE PEACE IN THE
ONE CALLED GEORGE YONESH. 'THE
HELP-SOUL' REALIZES 'HIS FAMILY
HAS NO ONENESS.'"

"DON'T
THEY SEE
WHAT THEY'RE
DOING TO THE
KIDS?"

"...NOT LIKE
KENNY
AND LISA."

"ME--I
CAN TAKE IT.
I'VE GOT
BUDDIES
ON THE
STREET."

"I CAN
MAKE MY OWN
WAY IF I
HAFTA..."

"NOT LIKE
MY BROTHERS
AND
SISTERS..."

"I THOUGHT
THEY REALLY HAD
A CHANCE--UNTIL
KENNY WENT AND
BLEW IT WITH
DYAN!"

"THE SERPENT KEY OF INSTINCT SEEMS
THE WRONG CHOICE
HERE..." "THINKS THE
PAXIS SOUL."

"...AND ESCHBACHER
CONTINUES TO CHALLENGE
US ... TO PRESS US IN OUR
WEAKNESS..."



ALL
IS NOT
FAIR!

WE TAKED
IT YOUR WAY--
AND THE WHOLE
EARTH SUFFERED
THE CONSEQUENCES!
I'M NOT GOING TO
LET IT HAPPEN
AGAIN!

THESE
KIDS MAY NOT
BE CHOSEN--BUT
THEY'VE GOT OUT,
AND THEY'RE
GOING TO GET
A CHANCE!

All are not
Chosen? NO!

These new souls
suffer...suffer terribly...
they join us and...

...They...they
weaken Us...



"I CALL
MYSELF
DYAN
DIVINE..."

"I CAN
AWAY, BECAME
A DANCER
I DANCE
REAL GOOD."

"...BECAUSE
I CAN'T STAND
TO HEAR THE NAME
MY DADDY
CALLED ME..."

"...THAT NAME
HE WHISPERED
SWEETLY TO ME
IN THE MIDDLE
OF THE NIGHT."

"I'LL DO
ANYTHING
THAT YOU
WANT ME FOR..."

"...EXCEPT
CALL THEM
DADDY!"

"KENNY'S
SO PURE, SO
INNOCENT..."

DYAN'S LIFE IS MORE THAN
THE SOUL OF THE PRINCE
COMPUTER CAN COMPREHEND

"NOW THIS BROKEN CHILD
JOINS US IN THE SACRIPHAGE
OF DREAM... IN THE SACRAMENT
OF NEW BONES, NEW FLESH..."

"WE ARE ONE NOW...
PERFECTION NO LONGER,"
SAYS THE SOUL OF THE
GREAT MACHINE

"...BUT
WILL IT RUB
OFF ON ME...
OR WILL I
JUST RUIN
HIM?"

"WE ARE FAKE...
WE ARE FAKE."